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GENERAL

1. <u>British policy toward Greece may be reviewed</u>--US Embassy London has been informed by a high Foreign Office official that Bevin expects a sharp reaction in Great Britain to the reported executions or intended executions by the Greek Government of 1,000 individuals who participated in the 1944 uprising. Bevin feels the reaction may force a reassessment of British policy toward Greece. (Until late 1947, the UK Government was under severe pressure from within the Labor Party for its retention of troops in Greece in support of a "reactionary" government. The majority of the condemned Greeks were sentenced for murder committed during the 1944 revolt. The cases have gone through all the courts of appeal and guilt has been established beyond doubt. The political implications of the executions, however, are obviously unfortunate for the Greek Government; furthermore, the guerrillas can be expected to start a program of retaliatory executions.)

2. <u>Possible branch offices of Cominform</u>--The US Military Attache in Paris has learned from a usually reliable source that a Soviet decision has been made to set up Cominform branch offices in Brussels and Bari (Italy). Source indicates that the branch offices will serve primarily as intelligence agencies. He adds that the Brussels organizational meeting has been set for the end of May.

    (CIA Comment: It is entirely probable that some decentralization of functions, including intelligence, will eventually take place and will be substantially as indicated in the report. Previous information, however, has placed the contemplated Italian branch office in Milan.)

3. <u>Yugoslav ships reportedly alerted for movement to Palestine</u>--The US Naval Attache in Cairo has been informed by a reliable source that all Yugoslav merchant ships have been ordered to return to Yugoslav ports by 15 May, allegedly to transport

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personnel and material to Palestine. (The Yugoslav merchant marine is estimated to consist of 5 passenger ships of 5000 tons or more and 26 smaller ocean going vessels, mostly freighters.)

(CIA Comment: CIA has received no other information concerning plans for such a movement by Yugoslav or other Satellite ships.

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EUROPE

4. **FRANCE:** <u>Communists to give Schuman temporary suppor:--</u> The US Military Attache in Paris has learned through a usually reliable informant that Communist leaders have decided for the present to avoid putting the present Schuman Government in difficulty. Communist Party leader Duclos reportedly believes that an understanding now between the Schuman coalition and the Gaullists in the National Assembly would be very harmful to the Communist Party. Duclos maintains that because a Gaullist-dominated government would enact electoral legislation unfavorable to the Communists, care must be taken to avoid a Government crisis until after the Assembly has decided upon methods of elections for the General Councils and the Council of the Republic.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

5. **PALESTINE:** <u>Arab League views on truce possibilities--</u>The Secretary General of the Arab League has informed US officials in Damascus and Cairo that the Arabs cannot accept any truce terms for Palestine which provide for continued Jewish immigration. The Secretary General indicated, however, that in practice

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the Arabs might tacitly agree to continuation of the present arrangement (under which 1,500 immigrants a month are permitted) provided that: (a) the immigrants represent a cross-section of displaced persons and not only fighting men; and (b) the US and the UK accept responsibility for supervising the immigration.

(CIA Comment: There is still such wide disagreement between Arabs and Jews on the major issue of immigration that the possibility of a truce appears remote.)

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